

Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 TRSE-00 /080 W

----- 112622

R 261142Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8546

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, NI, SF

SUBJECT: FMG, DIALOGUE, AND OAU CM MEETING

REF: LAGOS 2640 (NOTAL)

1. FMG MARCH 21 DELIVERED FRESH BLAST AGAINST "DIALOGUE" WITH SOUTH AFRICA, USING OCCASION 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF SHARPEVILLE MASSACRE BOTH TO CONDEMN NIGERIAN BUSINESSMEN VISITING RSA (REFTEL) AND TO REAFFIRM DESIRABILITY OF TOTALLY ISOLATING SOUTH AFRICA "UNTIL THAT COUNTRY ABANDONED RACIAL DISCRIMINATION."

2. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF MARCH 26, SENIOR MEA OFFICIAL

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PREDICTED THAT FORTHCOMING OAU CM MEETING WILL REAFFIRM HOSTILITY

TO DIALOGUE REFLECTED IN RECENT NIGERIAN PUBLIC STATEMENTS. SOURCE FURTHER PREDICTED THAT DAR ES SALAAM SESSION WOULD NOT EVEN PRODUCE MUCH CONTROVERSY, SINCE PROPONENTS OF DIALOGUE WILL BE SO HEAVILY OUT-VOTED THAT THEY WILL HAVE TO MAINTAIN LOW PROFILE. WHILE LIBERIA, IVORY COAST, AND PERHAPS ONE OR TWO OTHERS MAY GO ON MEETING WITH SOUTH AFRICANS, HE CONCLUDED, THEIR ACTION WILL ONCE AGAIN BE CLEARLY LABELED AS CONTRARY TO OAU POLICY.

3. COMMENT: BARRAGE OF PUBLIC STATEMENTS EXPRESSING FMG HOSTILITY TO DIALOGUE APPEARS DESIGNED PRIMARILY TO REMOVE ANY UNCERTAINTY ABOUT NIGERIAN POSITION IN WAKE PRIVATE VISITS BY BUSINESSMEN AND JOURNALIST TO SOUTH AFRICA. FMG VIEWS SUCH CONTACTS AS SOUTH AFRICAN DEVICE FOR MUDDYING WATERS AND CREATING IMPRESSION NIGERIANS PREPARED TO TOLERATE DIALOGUE, WHICH FMG HAS NOW REAFFIRMED UNEQUIVOCALLY IS NOT AT ALL THE CASE.

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